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POSSIBLE NOVA IN PYXIS

G. Pojmanski, Warsaw University Astronomical Observatory, reports the discovery, via the All Sky Automated Survey (65-mm-aperture telephoto lens), of a possible nova located at $\alpha = 9^h18^m58^s$, $\delta = -29°42'36''$ (equinox 2000.0). ASAS V magnitudes: Mar. 5.259 UT, [14.0; 11.191, 12.0; 14.260, 12.4; 15.00, 12.6; 16.00, 12.8. H. Yamaoka, Kyushu University, reports the independent discovery by H. Haseda, Aichi, Japan, at mag 13.3 on Mar. 16.45 (0.10-m twin patrol camera), providing also the following position end figures by K. Itagaki (Teppo-cho, Yamagata, Japan, 0.60-m reflector) from his own unfiltered CCD image taken on Mar. 16.451: $58^s.50$, $37''.0$ (red mag 12.8). Yamaoka adds that this position is close to the northern star (blue mag $\sim$ 18.0) of a close double on the Digitized Sky Survey.

COMET 141P/MACHHOLZ

This comet has been recovered at low altitude on CCD images obtained by M. Jäger (Stixendorf, Austria, 0.20-m Schmidt reflector; Feb. 27.8, 28.8, Mar. 1.8, and 13.8 UT) and by K. Kadota (Ageo, Japan, 0.25-m reflector; Mar. 16.4). Total visual magnitude estimates in zodiacal light: Mar. 9.10, 12.3 (A. Hale, Cloudcroft, NM, 0.41-m refl.); 11.83, 11.7 (J. J. Gonzalez, León, Spain, 0.20-m refl.). The following orbital elements, which appear with the astrometry on *MPEC* 2005-F08, assume this to be component A (with nongravitational parameters $A_1 = -0.27 \pm 0.03$, $A_2 = +0.0100 \pm 0.0002$; the total magnitudes in the ephemeris below assume $H_{30} = 14.0$).

Epoch = 2005 Mar. 11.0 TT

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2005\ \text{Feb.}\ 28.24872\ \text{TT} & \omega = 149^\circ.28409 & \\ e = 0.7501380 & \Omega = 246.16135 & \Big\}\ 2000.0 \\ q = 0.7528462\ \text{AU} & i = 12.79526 & \end{array}$$

$a = 3.0130473$ AU $n° = 0.18844957$ $P = 5.23$ years

2005 TT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Δ	r	ϵ	β	Mag.
Mar. 11	$1^h08^m.26$	$+\ 8°27'.3$	1.486	0.775	$28°.5$	$37°.8$	11.5
16	1 36.93	+10 09.6	1.472	0.799	30.7	39.5	11.9
21	2 05.73	+11 40.7	1.467	0.831	32.9	40.6	12.4
26	2 34.42	+12 59.0	1.470	0.869	35.0	41.2	13.0
31	3 02.73	+14 03.6	1.483	0.912	37.1	41.3	13.7
Apr. 5	3 30.44	+14 54.2	1.504	0.959	38.9	40.9	14.3
10	3 57.32	+15 31.0	1.533	1.010	40.5	40.2	15.1

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